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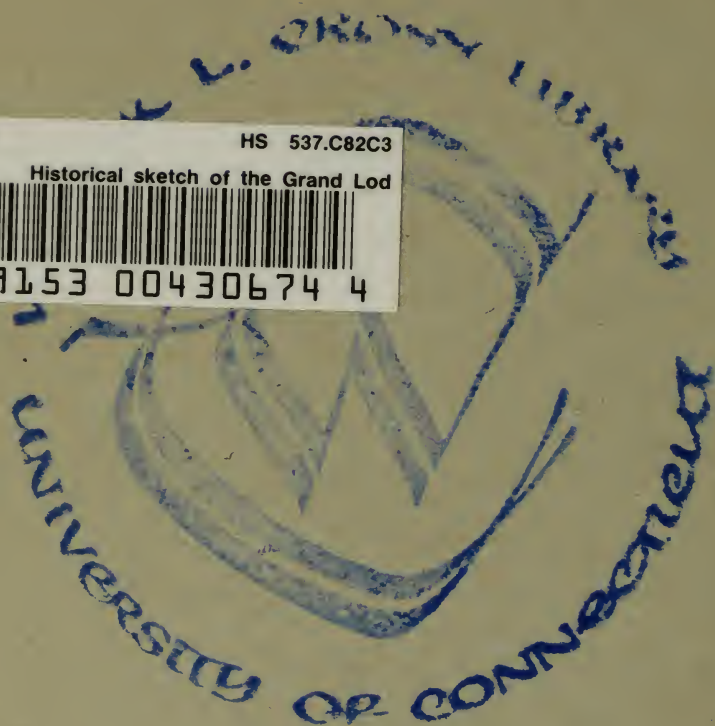
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Historical sketch of the Grand Lod

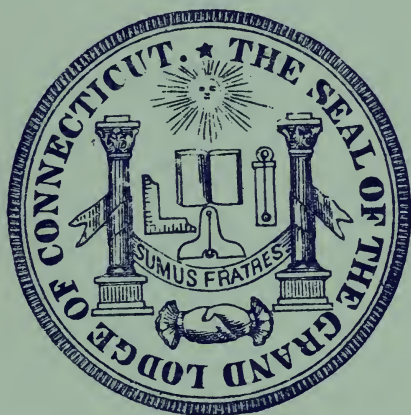


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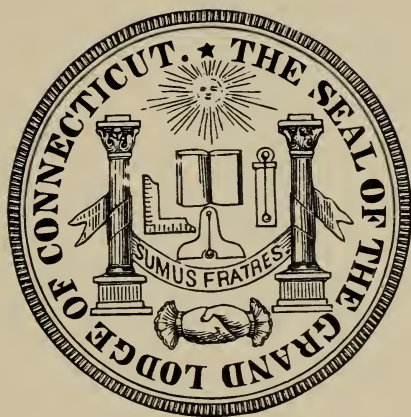
**HISTORICAL SKETCH**  
**of the**  
**Grand Lodge of Connecticut**

**Organized 1789**





HISTORICAL SKETCH  
of  
The Grand Lodge of Connecticut  
organized  
July 8, 1789



By Right Worshipful James R. Case  
*Grand Historian, 1953-*

*Published in connection with  
The 175th Anniversary  
of the  
Grand Lodge  
of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
of the  
State of Connecticut  
Hartford*

1963





DAVID WOOSTER (1711-1777)

*The Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut*



To all and every The W<sup>or</sup>th<sup>ship</sup> Brethren and Fellows of the Ancient and Hon<sup>able</sup> Society of Free and Accepted Masons now residing at or about New Town in the Colony of Connecticut in New England, or that may hereafter reside there: Thomas Edwards Esq<sup>r</sup> of Boston in New England Provincial Grand Master of North America, Amiable Greeting.

Whereas Application hath been made to us by Our worthy and Wellbelov'd Brother Esq<sup>r</sup> David Wadsworth and Divers others worthy Brethren, now residing in or about the said New Town, Praying that We would Impower them (tho' to Congregate and Form) themselves into a Regular Lodge of Masons

Now Know Ye

That in Consideration thereof and by Virtue of the Power committed to us by the W<sup>or</sup>th<sup>ship</sup> Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and by the W<sup>or</sup>th<sup>ship</sup> Grand Lodge of England We do hereby Appoint and Impower Our Trust and Faithful Brother Esq<sup>r</sup> David Wadsworth to be the First Master of the First Lodge in New Town aforesaid, and do hereby Order that the numerous (as soon as may be) all the Free and Accepted Masons in or about the said Colony of Connecticut (taking special Care that they have) and or shall be all Regularly made) to meet, and together make Choice of Two Wardens, that is them may subordinate and that the said Lodge shall meet in a convenient place in New Town aforesaid on each Day as shall be most convenient, and that the said Lodge do annually on the said Lodge Night immediately preceding the Festival of St. John the Evangelist Choose from among their Members One Master and Two Wardens to Rule the said Lodge with other Officers necessary to the good Order thereof, and Further that they strictly keep and Observe all such other Rules, Statutes, Regulations as contained in the Statute Books of Conventions, except so far as they have stood altered by the Grand Lodge at their Quarterly Communications, with such other as they may receive from us, or our Deputy Grand Master or from the Grand Master and his Deputy for the time being, and that the Master and Wardens of said Lodge do Enquire to us in Writing a List of the Members of said Lodge with the place of their abode and the stated Days and place of Meeting, Given under our Hand and Seal the Twelfth Day of November A D. 1750 and of Marching 1750.

By the Grand Masters Command

Thos. Delham G. S.

High in Davis D. G. M.

Bon. Halliwell G. W.

John Box G. W.

Deposited in the Office of the Grand Lodge  
John M. G. Esq<sup>r</sup>

THE OLDEST LODGE CHARTER EXTANT IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE



PIERPONT EDWARDS MEDAL

*Awarded for  
Distinguished Masonic Service*



# HISTORICAL SKETCH

## of The Grand Lodge of Connecticut



BY JAMES R. CASE

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*“When things are come to some perfection, it delighteth people to looke backe at their founders, and glorie in their worthie enterprises . . .”*

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Freemasonry came into Connecticut at New Haven in 1750 when David Wooster assembled all the brethren of the Colony to form a lodge under warrant from St. John's Provincial Grand Lodge at Boston. Prior to the Revolution this same “Modern” authority chartered lodges in New London, Middletown, Hartford, Norwich, Woodbury, Wallingford and Guilford.

During the 1760's lodges at Fairfield, Stamford, Norwalk and Stratford were organized under warrants from George Harrison, Provincial Grand Master of New York, by appointment from the Grand Lodge of “Moderns” at London.

The few years preceding the Revolution were difficult ones for the fraternity and most of the Connecticut lodges suspended labor until the air could be cleared. “Men who had been intimate all their lives crossed the street to avoid meeting, and turned their heads another way lest they be obliged to touch hats.” Harmony was not likely to prevail when confirmed Loyalist and ardent Rebel came together — wherever it might be — and that is accepted as the reason for the recess in most instances.

Brethren among the officers in the Connecticut regiments of the Continental line during the Siege of Boston in 1776 organized American Union Lodge, the most famous military traveling lodge of the Revolution. During the winter of 1778-79 while Putnam's division of the army was in winter quarters at Redding, the Lodge was very active and many Connecticut men were made Masons there.

Acquaintance with the purposes of the fraternity and among members of the Craft, gained while in the service, was the principal factor leading to the formation of lodges at Danbury, Colchester, Litchfield, Derby, Salisbury, Norwich and Farmington between 1781-87. With one exception these were chartered by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, of "Antient" or Scottish origin.

At the end of the Revolutionary War the lodges originating under charters from St. John's Grand Lodge at Boston found themselves out of touch with any superior authority, as the Grand Master was inactive and the Grand Secretary gone to Halifax. The lodges under New York charters learned that most lodges still working in the city had acknowledged a new Grand Lodge which worked under a charter from Atholl rather than from London. The Massachusetts Grand Lodge had issued several charters but was not yet demanding strict obedience and support from its out-of-state lodges.

The initiative towards organization of a Grand Lodge in Connecticut seems to have been undertaken by the Fairfield County lodges, which not only felt themselves free from allegiance to New York, but had frequently assembled in county convention. They circularized the several lodges in the state, suggesting a meeting at Fairfield in May on "Matters of Consequence". However, an advertisement in the *Connecticut Courant* announced a meeting of Connecticut lodges to be held in New Haven, March 6, 1783, "upon business of general concern and of great importance". This may have been an anticipatory move or perhaps done by agreement on a more central location.

At this assembly uniformity in procedure, occasional meetings of lodge representatives, and appointment of a



“Grand Master for the United States of America” were recommended as expedient; lodges were desired to appoint committees of conference to meet in New Haven on the last Tuesdays in April and September; a superintending committee was proposed, and they were desired to communicate with all the lodges in the state on matters of general interest, and with lodges in the other states in North America on the most proper measures for establishing a Grand Master for the continent.

At the meeting of April 29, 1783, a moderator and clerk were chosen; uniform fees recommended; a waiting period between proposal and initiation suggested; a recommendation that unvouched for visitors be required to take the Tiler’s Oath when examined; appointment of a visiting lecturer was made; and a Superintending Committee of Four, one from each county, selected.

At the regular meeting in September, 1783, at Middletown, none of the Superintending Committee of Four was present, but they were continued, and urged to press the matter of their appointment. The Grand Visitor was exhorted to get on with his duties; and copies of the proceedings were to be distributed to all lodges in the state, since only six had sent delegations to the meeting. There was apparently mixed sentiment in Connecticut Masonic circles, some advocating formation of an independent Grand Lodge in the state; another group desiring a General Grand Lodge with Washington at the head, under which Connecticut would accept a charter; and another group which thought it necessary to have a charter from the Grand Lodge at London to insure regularity or legitimacy.

Letters still extant indicate the Committee of Four did not press for the appointment of a Grand Master for the Continent, but turned to the Atholl Grand Lodge of New York (the city still being occupied by British armed forces) for information about how to “establish a Grand Master”, and asking how he might be “properly confirmed in Great Britain”.

In reply the New York committee approved the steps already taken in Connecticut; recommended the election of a Grand Master and other officers; suggested application to England for a charter; offered to recommend such an application *if* the Connecticut Grand Lodge officers-elect could pass an examination in New York or would submit to receive instruction (!); and in the meantime promised "every authority, support and instruction necessary and proper".

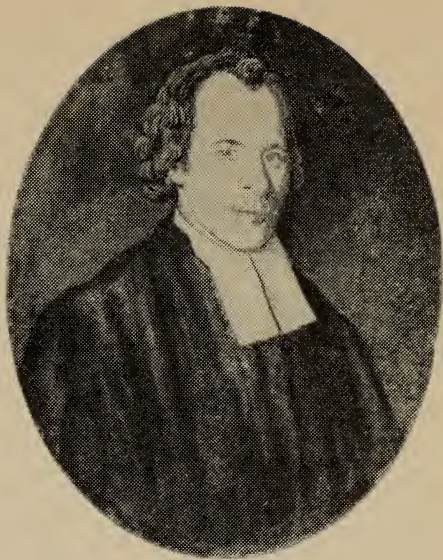
Without waiting until the next regular convention in April, and in defiance of bad weather and poor traveling, the Committee of Four called a special meeting at New Haven January 14, 1784, and chose Pierpont Edwards as Grand Master. This action must have been reported to New York as on February 4, 1784, the officers of the Grand Lodge there were appointed a committee "to determine the most eligible mode for the Grand Officers Elect of the State of Connecticut to obtain a grand warrant from the Grand Lodge of England". And there the matter seems to have rested, as no record has been found of any correspondence to obtain the "grand warrant" from England. Perhaps the "most eligible mode" could not be determined, or perhaps there was no agreement in Connecticut concerning the next step. Perhaps the Grand Officers elect did not choose to submit to receive instruction. No evidence has been found that the regular meetings in April and October 1784 were held; in fact, some other incidents point to a general acceptance of the idea that there would be no further action for the time being.

The Massachusetts Grand Lodge issued charters for a lodge at Norwich in 1785 and another at Farmington in 1787. In November 1786, Wooster Lodge at Colchester "recommended the brethren in Windham County to Boston for a Lodge in Pomfret". The Grand Lodge at New York quietly altered its seal to read "State" rather than "Provincial". The prime movers for a General Grand Lodge for the Continent were no longer active. The now independent Massachusetts Grand Lodge was consolidating its control over the subordinate lodges and demanded that





PIERPONT EDWARDS  
(1750 - 1826)



REV. ASHBEL BALDWIN  
(1757 - 1846)

out-of-state lodges chartered from Massachusetts come to terms as well.

A letter which originated in Litchfield called a convention of delegates from the several lodges in Connecticut (now under pressure from Massachusetts) to meet in Hartford May 14, 1789. These brethren named a committee to prepare a systematic plan for forming a Grand Lodge and called a meeting for appropriate action on July 8, 1789 at New Haven. The General Grand Lodge had not materialized; several other states had set an example; and finally the craft in Connecticut established their own Grand Lodge by assumption of the power to do so, as had been done in London in 1717. As Grand Master they elected — or re-elected Pierpont Edwards.

A survey of the twenty-two men from thirteen lodges who attended the organization meeting gives us some interesting facts. Their ages ranged from twenty-nine to fifty-one years, the average being thirty-eight. There were seven lawyers, seven merchants or traders, five public officials, an innkeeper, a tradesman and a physician. Less than one-third were graduates of a college, in those days perhaps the equivalent of a high school education.

During his two years in office Edwards chartered five lodges about the state, and initial steps were taken to stabilize the Grand Lodge organization. His successor, William Judd, and a new Grand Secretary, John Mix, were more vigorous in leadership and administration. During seven years in office William Judd chartered more than twenty-five lodges, including two in Vermont, sometimes called "New Connecticut". The Grand Master also visited nearly every lodge in the state to promote some uniformity in the ritual and conduct of lodge affairs. All the holdouts were brought into the fold; Connecticut charters were issued for the older documents from other authority; and numbers were assigned on the basis of dates of organization. The "general state" of Masonry in Connecticut improved markedly.

Progress was made towards uniformity in fees to be charged and returns to be submitted. The constitution and by-laws were printed and distributed, as were the proceedings of the semi-annual meetings, at Hartford in May and in October in New Haven. Jurisdictional matters were settled, fraternal intercourse with sister grand lodges maintained, and a grand lodge certificate adopted, the work of Amos Doolittle, the engraver.

The first cornerstone ceremony of record in the state took place at Cheshire, April 18, 1796, when Temple Lodge placed the headstone of the northeast corner at the Episcopal Academy in Cheshire, with a suitably engraved leaden plate underneath. It being deemed expedient for the Grand Lodge to appear in public, the officers and members marched to the Brick Meeting House on New Haven Green in grand procession during the October 1797 meeting, and heard a sermon from our first Grand Chaplain, Reverend Ashbel Baldwin. Major General Moses Cleaveland was Grand Marshal of the procession which moved back and forth across the Green.

Both Pierpont Edwards and William Judd were prominent anti-Federalists and deep in the bitter political struggle to replace Connecticut conservatism with some toleration, and the Charter of 1662 with a state constitu-



tion. In May, 1798, Stephen Titus Hosmer, a distinguished non-partisan jurist of Middletown, was chosen Grand Master and stayed at the helm for a record of eighteen years.

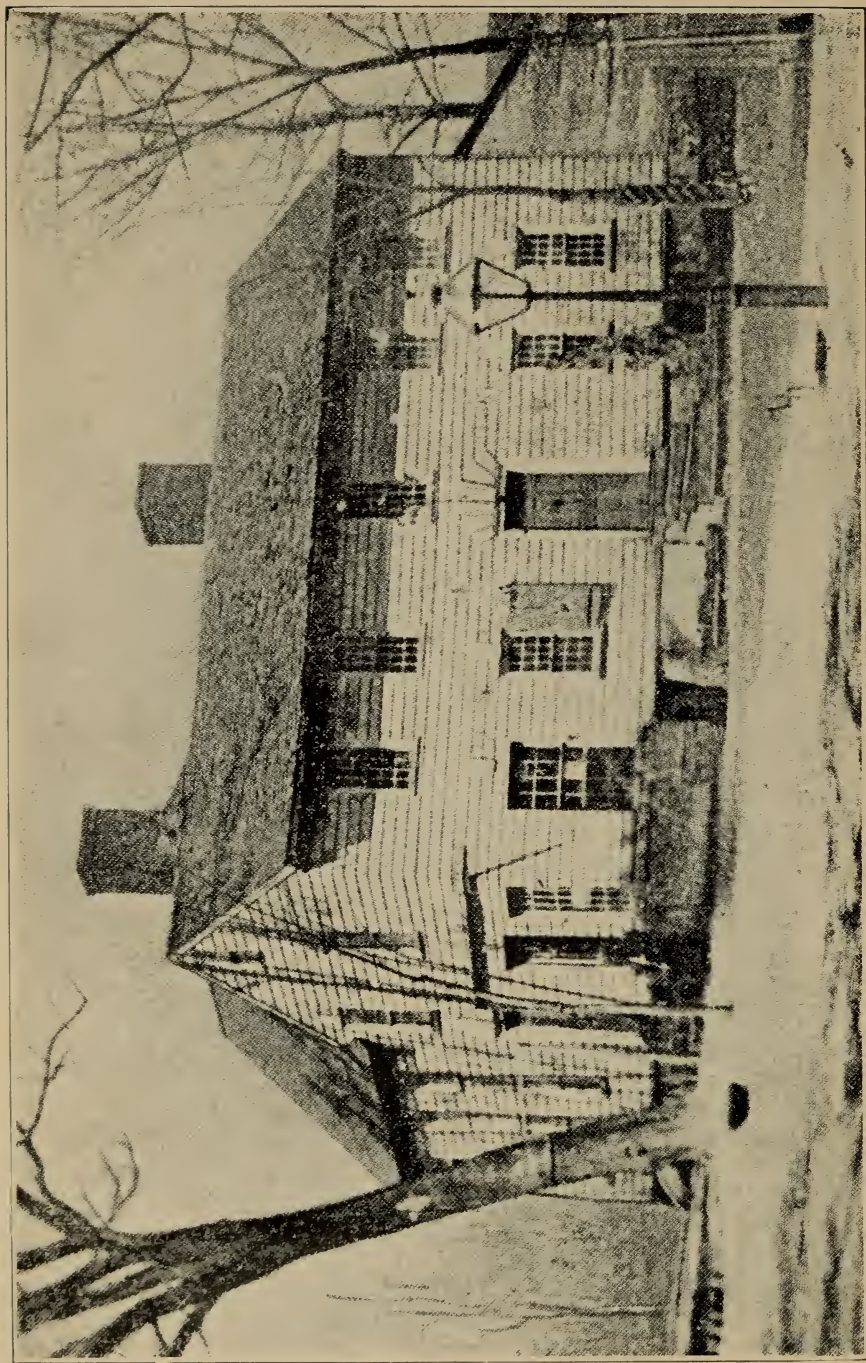
While he sat in the Grand East, an average of one lodge per year was added to the roll and charters were issued for two lodges in Ohio, which were later to join with American Union Lodge and others in the formation of a Grand Lodge in that state. The "long room" in Amos Doolittle's tavern and workshop was leased for the meetings in New Haven. The Grand Secretary was placed on a salary and introduced better and businesslike practices in the conduct of Grand Lodge affairs.

As his first Grand Chaplain, Grand Master Hosmer appointed Abraham Jarvis, the Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut. Both his predecessor, Samuel Seabury, and his successor, Thomas Church Brownell, were members of the Craft. On Washington's Birthday in 1800, the death of this truly Illustrious Brother during the previous December was marked by ceremonies in every county seat of the state, with participation by civic, military and Masonic organizations, with emphasis on the latter.

Colonel Aaron Burr of Redding, made a Mason about this time in Union Lodge at Danbury, was a respectable farmer and businessman often mistaken for Aaron Burr, one-time Vice President and a much less reputable character.

When Hosmer declined reelection in 1816, the state was in the midst of political ferment. The next year the Tolerationists broke the grip of the long established ruling group by the election of Oliver Wolcott Jr. as governor. At the next communication of the Grand Lodge he was called upon by a "respectable delegation", offered the position of Grand Master, accepted and served as such for four years. Having the same name as his father, the Signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was not a Mason, there has been some misunderstanding about which Oliver Wolcott was the Mason.

During Wolcott's term semi-annual communications of the Grand Lodge were discontinued and yearly meetings

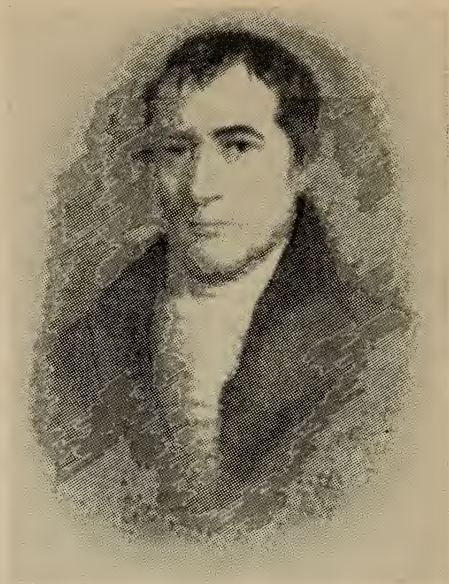


AMOS DOOLITTLE HOUSE  
Formerly at College and Elm Streets, New Haven.





JEREMY LADD CROSS  
(1783 - 1860)



THOMAS HUBBARD  
(1774 - 1838)

alternated between Hartford and New Haven. The most remarkable event of his term, however, was the employment of Jeremy Ladd Cross as Grand Lecturer. This notable Mason, of New Hampshire origin, lectured all over the state in Lodge and Chapter, introduced the Council degrees, was a proficient Templar ritualist, and was honored with the 33rd degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite by the Supreme Council in Charleston. Associated with Webb, Gleason, Nye and Snell, co-worker with Barney, Barker and Cushman, rival of Vinton, and teacher of hundreds, his influence cannot be overestimated. The publication of his *Masonic Chart or Hieroglyphic Monitor*, illustrated with engravings by Doolittle, made his name one never to be forgotten by Masonic students of the ritual.

The fraternity in Connecticut was at a peak of prosperity and public esteem in 1825. Lafayette was making his farewell tour of the country, being received in every state as a Freemason. When he took part in the cornerstone ceremony at the Bunker Hill Monument, Connecticut was well represented by a delegation under the leadership of Samuel G. Goodrich (Peter Parley). The following year Union Lodge of New London laid the cornerstone of the Battle Monument at Groton.

There were more than 4,000 Masons in the seventy-five lodges of the state, whose population was 285,000. The Grand Lodge had been incorporated and a new constitution and by-laws adopted. A system of District Deputies failed of acceptance and a close check of the constituent lodges was not possible. The quality of new material and exclusion of liquor from the lodge room were tender topics of policy. The fraternity was never more popular or more highly regarded.

Suddenly the anti-Masonic frenzy broke out, sparked by the still unsolved disappearance of William Morgan at Batavia, New York. This incident exploded into a matter of national importance, exploited by unscrupulous politicians of the anti-Masonic party.

The effect becomes apparent by a glance at the Proceedings of our Grand Lodge. A decline in representation at Grand Lodge, and in return of annual reports began. The number of petitions received and degrees conferred dropped to zero. Grand officers shrank from the notoriety connected with election or advancement. The returns from constituent lodges were omitted from printed proceedings. In 1831, representation was merely mentioned as "a quorum".

The long struggle to get back into public favor began in 1832 with the election as Grand Master of Dr. Thomas Hubbard, a member of the Yale Medical School faculty. A Declaration of Principles was adopted and made public, with no less than 1500 signatures of Freemasons in thirty or more communities. Eliphalet Storer became Grand Secretary and during the next quarter century performed a valiant service in restoring some orderly procedure in Grand Lodge business matters. Among his successors Joseph K. Wheeler, John H. Barlow and Winthrop Buck were outstanding for their services as Grand Secretary.

This decade also saw the departure of John Mix, whose last appearance at Grand Lodge was when, blinded by cataracts in both eyes, he pleaded for some relief — not for himself but for an ageing, helpless and indigent brother. Also faithful to the last was Rev. Ashbel Baldwin, who





AMOS DOOLITTLE  
(1754 - 1832)



OLIVER WOLCOTT JR.  
(1760 - 1833)

acted as Grand Chaplain before he left the state to die peacefully in Rochester, New York, as the oldest graduate of Yale at that time, and with seventy-five years of Masonic activity to his credit.

By 1840 most of the deadwood, crumbling stone and loose cement had been removed from the structure of the Grand Lodge, and rebuilding began under a succession of capable and enthusiastic Grand Masters. Exchange of Grand Lodge representatives was first established in 1843 with neighboring New York and relatively faraway South Carolina. The following year the fraternity as a whole received some good publicity when the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar met in New Haven. The same bodies returned to Hartford for the Triennial in 1856, since which time they have grown so large that none of our cities can accommodate them.

After the lapse of twenty-five years, restoration to full membership could only be in small numbers, but most dormant lodges had been revived and recovery in most cases was rapid. The shift from a rural economy, with horse and buggy travel, to small industry located on the new railroads

in larger towns, had its effect on revivals or location of new lodges.

During the gold rush of 1848-49 to California, the Grand Lodge in special communication issued a charter to a group of New Haven brethren for Connecticut Lodge (76) which became Tehama Lodge (1) under the new Grand Lodge of California. During the Civil War a dispensation was granted for a military lodge, Connecticut Union (90) in the 4th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, which for obvious reasons did not flourish. Later requests for dispensations in other regiments were refused.

The Grand Master's address and report to the Grand Lodge first appeared in print in 1851, and since that time they provide an excellent vehicle for learning how the wheels turned down through the years. The Grand Master's term was traditionally for two years until 1895, since which time a single year has been the rule, perhaps not always to the best advantage of the fraternity.

In 1868 an office was provided for the Grand Secretary, which formerly appears to have been a separate desk in his home or place of business. A per capita levy was first made in 1851, prior to which Grand Lodge funds came entirely from a part of the initiation fees.

The past one hundred years has seen the fraternity increase in numbers five-fold, although the growth has not always been steady, since economic influences are always at work on fraternal societies as on other institutions. Many matters of interest occurred during this period, chronicled on the lodge minutes, noted in Grand Lodge *Proceedings*, or briefed in those of the last decade which contained historical appendices. They are not within the scope of this publication, but mention will be made of some developments which deserve more than passing mention.

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all mankind, but especially an obligation of Masons. No record is made of such matters except in extraordinary circumstances. Occasionally early minutes of our lodges report the gift of a load of wood, a quarter of beef, a side of pork, or even the loan of the lodge cow. In one instance a house



was built for a widow and her children. Almost every lodge owns a cemetery plot. But in general the charitable and relief activities were not publicized, any more than they are today.

Organized benevolent efforts, in order to distribute the burden of caring for those in need of benefits sometimes beyond the capability of a local lodge, were proposed in a sermon before the Grand Lodge in 1797 by Reverend Brother Ashbel Baldwin. But the practice of passing the hat still continued. After seventy-five years Grand Master Luke A. Lockwood originated the Masonic Charity Foundation, which began with \$1,019.63 contributed towards a goal of a million dollars.

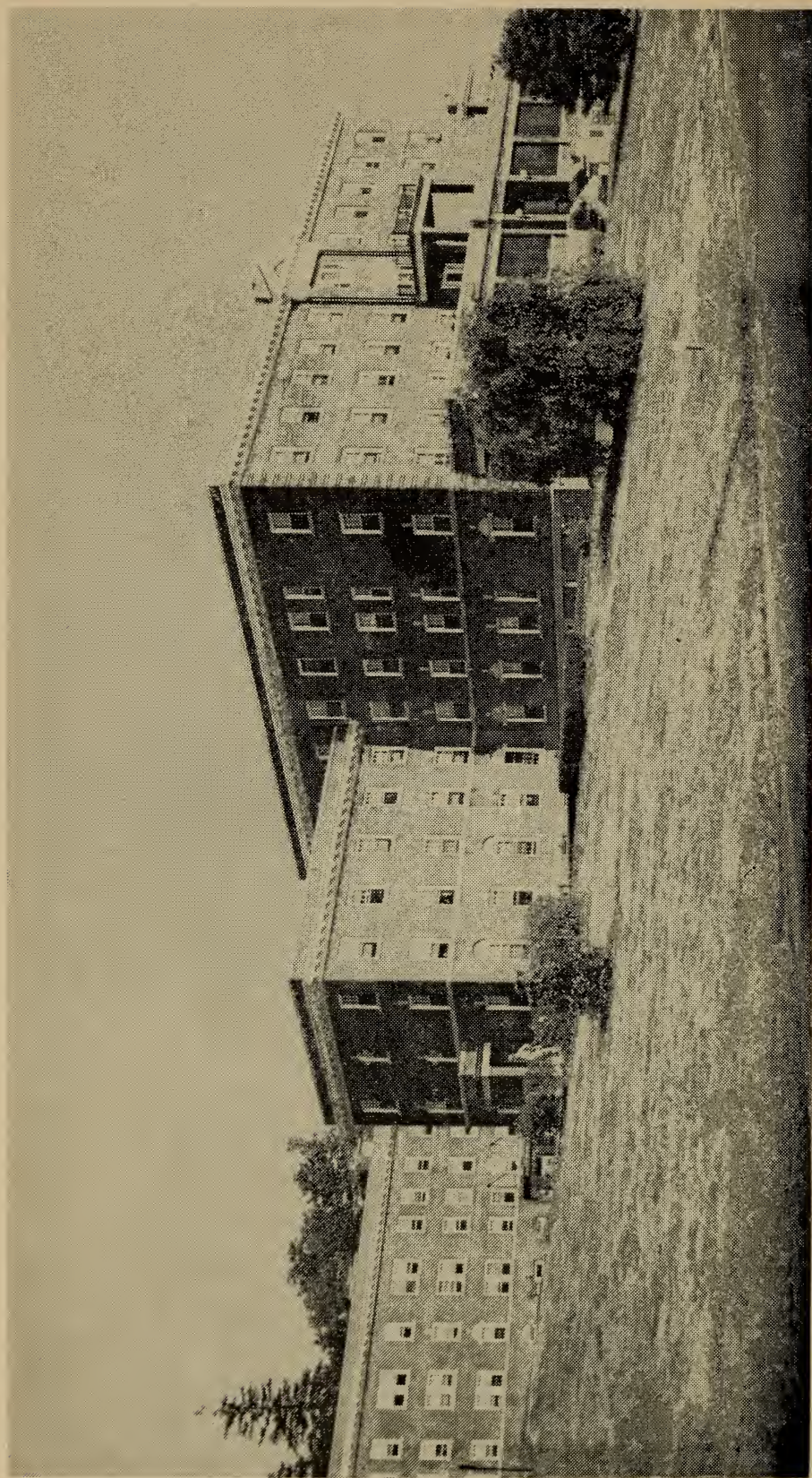
In 1894 the Oneida Community Farm at Wallingford came on the market and was purchased for \$17,000. An appeal for operating funds brought in \$7,500, the first legacy of \$1,000 was announced, and a per capita assessment of 75¢ per annum placed the Home on a going basis. There were eighteen residents the first year.

The last seven decades have seen many changes. The present Home and Hospital at Wallingford represents an investment of nearly \$3,000,000 with an endowment fund approaching the same total. The capacity of 350 is soon to be increased by another fifty hospital beds. A per capita of modest amount makes every Mason in Connecticut a supporter of the establishment, which is not outranked by any similar institution in the country.

The detailed story of the development of the Masonic Charity Foundation and the evolution of our present facilities at Wallingford are chronicled in the *Annual Reports* of the Board of Managers.

The establishment and growth of the Endowment Fund is due largely to the foresight of Robert S. Walker, Grand Master in 1928, a Waterbury banker. His long years of service on the Board of Managers culminated in a twenty year term as President, during which many improvements were made at the Home. The dormitory recently constructed there memorializes his devotion to the institution and the purposes it serves.





MAIN BUILDING, MASONIC HOME AND HOSPITAL



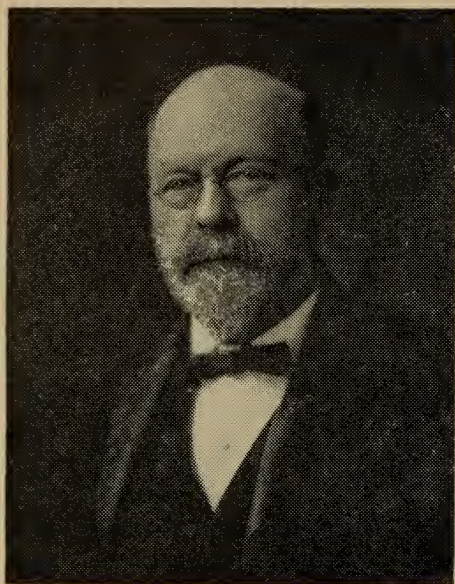
One of the great names in Connecticut Masonry is that of Luke A. Lockwood, a lawyer of Greenwich. Without having held any office in the lodge where he was raised, he was appointed charter Master of Acacia Lodge (85). In 1872 he was elected Grand Master from the floor, an unusual distinction in Connecticut. He was much interested in Masonic legal procedure, issued dozens of decisions while Grand Master, and compiled a book which is still a standard reference, *Masonic Law and Practise*. We are indebted to Luke A. Lockwood for organizing the Masonic Charity Foundation and pressing matters until the Masonic Home was opened. Additionally, his record of service to his church and in civic affairs is highly creditable.

Another great Jurist, whose influence upon the law and policy of the Grand Lodge has been considerable, was Leonard J. Nickerson, Grand Master in 1917, and a Judge of the Superior Court. The present *Digest of Decisions* is a codification originally made by him. He served his town, county, state and nation in various capacities throughout his entire long life, was a tireless worker for the fraternity, and one of the Board of Managers of the home for twenty years.

Following the Centennial observance of the Grand Lodge in 1889, a Commemorative Book was published, a valuable reference work found in practically every lodge library along with the *Proceedings*, with details of the celebration at that time.

The 150th Anniversary was observed at a Special Communication in New Haven on July 8, 1939, and was the occasion for the inauguration of the Pierpont Edwards Medal, a coveted award given in recognition of meritorious service to the fraternity.

During the early 1800's a number of lodges erected their own building to accommodate their gatherings. Typically, this was a two story structure, the first floor of which could be rented as a school room or store. A few dedicated Masons provided a lodge room and other facilities in their dwelling houses. More often the meeting place was a tavern where the customary supper could be reinforced with bev-



LUKE A. LOCKWOOD  
(1833 - 1905)



ROBERT S. WALKER  
(1876 - 1950)

erages then in daily use, and the ball-room occupied for the tiled session. The walls were often decorated, sometimes with a chart such as the one illustrated on another page. This once hung above the mantel in the assembly room of a Lebanon tavern where Eastern Star Lodge was organized.

The men who organized the Grand Lodge of Connecticut had been associated in the Revolutionary War, many of them in American Union Lodge. Veterans of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War are conspicuous on the roll of Grand Lodge officers. During the Civil War one military lodge was given a dispensation, as already mentioned.

During the First World War, Major Morris B. Payne, Master of Union Lodge (31) of New London, was given a dispensation to convene an occasional lodge "somewhere in France", did so, and conferred degrees on seven candidates who had been elected to the lodge while at home. During the Second World War Major General Morris B. Payne, Past Grand Master, was given a dispensation to convene an occasional lodge at Camp Blanding, Florida, and complete (upon request) the conferral of degrees on the candidate of any Connecticut lodge.

In 1947 dispensations were granted for Stuttgart-American Lodge in Germany and Tokyo-American Lodge



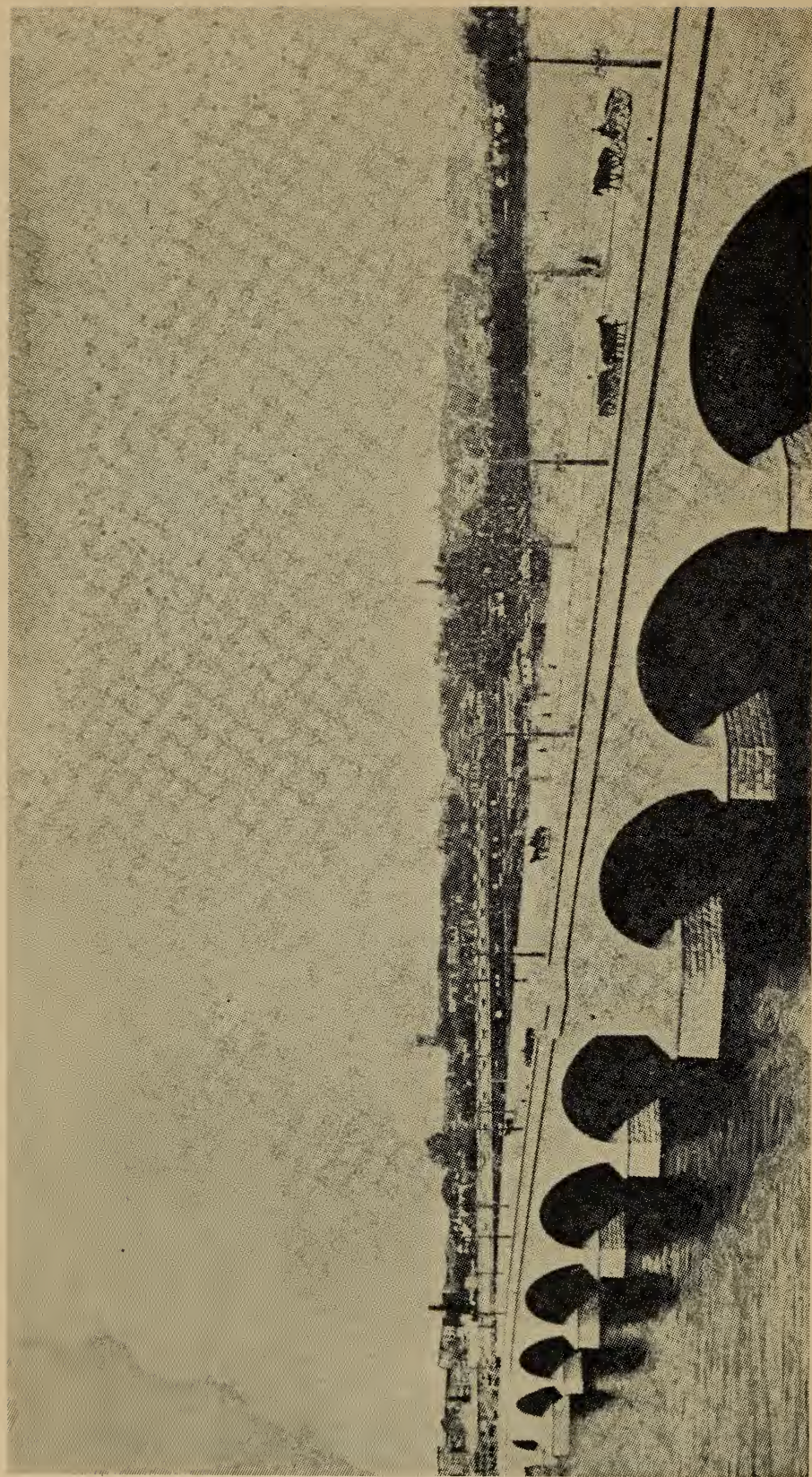
in Japan, both of which carried on for a number of years until the organization of Grand Lodges in the countries named dictated the discontinuance of the dispensations.

In the early days most Connecticut lodges met by the moon. An almanac hung by every fireside and the date of lodge meetings could be readily determined. The lustrous full moon provided the light for members wending or winding their way homeward from lodge on foot or on horseback. As late as 1876 a Masonic Calendar was published in Grand Lodge Proceedings, forecasting the appearance of the full moon for some years in advance. But in 1893 there was trouble. February was without a full moon, and in some other months it fullled in such a way that meeting nights specified in the by-laws did not occur. But the Grand Lodge regulations required at least one meeting each month to be held by the constituent lodges. Some dispensations were issued where the Master of a lodge could not "arrange with the moon to get full", and since that time the moon has waned as a guide for meeting nights. At present it is used only by St. Paul's (11), of Litchfield, Putnam (46), of South Woodstock, and St. Luke's (48), of Kent.

On many occasions the fraternity has appeared in public for services of worship and thanksgiving, for the laying of corner stones and for other functions. Two such events are especially notable. On April 26, 1854 the Cap Stone was placed on the shaft which stands in Danbury over the grave of Major General David Wooster, who lost his life while driving British raiders from the town in 1777. On October 8, 1908 the Final Stone was placed at the western approach to the Bulkeley Bridge in Hartford, thousands of the Craft assembling for the occasion. The bridge is named for Brother Morgan G. Bulkeley, Civil War veteran, insurance company executive, Mayor, Governor, and Senator, to name a few of his manifold activities. Details of these two programs may be found in Grand Lodge Proceedings for the years mentioned.

Uniformity in the work has always been an objective within the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and among the several Grand Lodges, but it has been attained only in the essentials. At the 1783 convention Jonathan Heart was ap-





BULKELEY BRIDGE, HARTFORD, IN 1908



pointed "Grand Visitor" and did instruct some lodges in the ritual developed in American Union Lodge during the Revolution. This was also taken "home" by many of the 450 Masons on record in that famous lodge, and became the basis for the ceremonies used generally throughout the United States today. Grand Master William Judd stressed the ritual during his visitations. Reverend Brother George Richards of New Hampshire came to Connecticut in his mission of standardizing the work during the first decade of the 1800's.

In 1818 Jeremy Ladd Cross was appointed Grand Lecturer and busied himself around the state for a few years. He taught the ritual developed in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, perfected by Benjamin Gleason, with possibly some Webb influence. After Cross ended his official duties, the services of John Barney were often employed by Connecticut lodges until he left for Ohio. During the revival which followed the anti-Masonic frenzy, exemplification of a recommended standard ritual took place at regular and special communications of the Grand Lodge. Just after the Civil War a Grand Lecturer was appointed with assistants in each county and a strenuous effort was made to improve and standardize rendition of the ritual all over the state. This standard ritual is preserved in the *Mnemonics*, developed by the Custodians of the Work, and is now supplemented by an aide memoire in the *Code Book*. Nevertheless, there are many variations based on local tradition and usage, some differences even in the signs; but in the essentials uniformity is general. A few lodges are still using the "old work" of Cross and Barney with only slight modifications which have crept in down through the years.

Charity and relief and benevolence of a general nature have not been confined to Connecticut recipients. Since the beginning, whenever disaster struck and aid could be given through money from Masonic sympathizers, Connecticut has responded. Flood, fire, earthquake, famine and war damage have many times occasioned a call of distress; they have never gone unheeded. Our aid has been extended beyond national boundaries to alleviate misery and suffering not only in this hemisphere but overseas as well.

In union there is strength and Connecticut has joined with many other jurisdictions in such good works as the establishment and maintenance of the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, in liberal support of the educational and hospital visitation activities of the Masonic Service Association, in sustaining the Grand Masters' conferences, and in cooperation with the Masonic Relief Association.

During the past one hundred and seventy-five years there have been brief periods when the fraternity languished. But Truth is the solid foundation on which our Brotherhood is firmly established, and it has withstood the occasional storm. The world at large is convinced of its good effects, and holds Masonry in high esteem for the Universal Benevolence it demonstrates. Every Connecticut Mason can take pride in the fact that his adherence to our great principles, and the support which he gives to the overall Grand Lodge program, constitute him a promoter of the Grand Design, literally throughout the world.

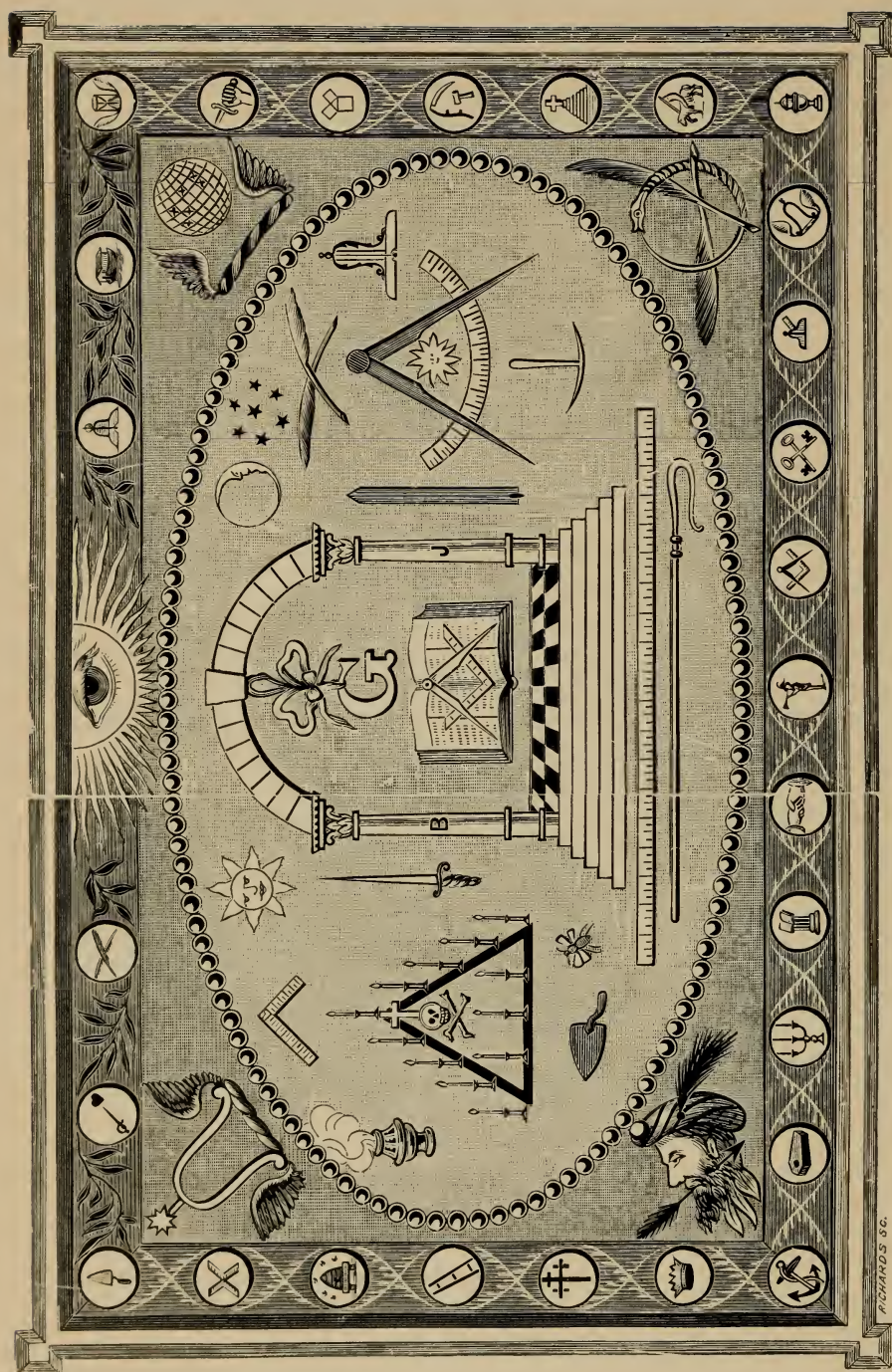
*Esto perpetua!*





WOOSTER MONUMENT,  
DANBURY





RICHARDS SC.

OLD WALL DECORATION  
Formerly in Metcalf Tavern, Lebanon.



## Grand Masters of Masons in Connecticut



The compilation following shows the year when first elected, life span, principal occupation or activity, place of residence at time of election, and the lodge to which credited. Details may be found in the Grand Lodge Proceedings for 1931 and later years.



1789	Pierpont Edwards	(1750-1826)	Lawyer, U. S. District judge.	New Haven	Hiram (1)
1791	William Judd	(1743-1804)	Lawyer, politician.	Farmington	Frederick (14)
1793	Stephen Titus Hosmer	(1763-1834)	Lawyer, Chief Justice.	Middletown	St. Johns (2)
1816	Solomon Cowles	(1758-1839)	Merchant, banker.	Farmington	Frederick (14)
1818	Oliver Wolcott Jr.	(1760-1833)	Financier, Governor	Hartford	St. Johns (4)
1821	Lyman Law	(1770-1842)	Lawyer, Congressman.	New London	Union (31)
1823	Ralph I. Ingersoll	(1789-1872)	Lawyer, diplomat.	New Haven	Hiram (1)
1825	Elizur Goodrich	(1787-1868)	Lawyer, educator.	Colchester	St. Johns (4)
1826	Daniel B. Brinsmade	(1782-1862)	Lawyer, local official.	Washington	Rising Sun (27)
1828	James M. Goodwin	(1785-1870)	Merchant, insurance man.	Hartford	St. Johns (4)
1831	Thomas Hubbard	(1774-1838)	Physician, humanitarian.	New Haven	Putnam (46)
1834	Leonard Hendee	(1788-1859)	Merchant, local official.	Andover	Warren (50)
1835	William H. Ellis	(1790-1856)	Business man, local official.	New Haven	Hiram (1)
1838	Dyer T. Brainard	(1790-1863)	Physician, scientist.	New London	Union (31)
1842	Aner Bradley	(1786-1865)	Farmer, tanner.	Watertown	Federal (17)
1843	Henry Peck	(1795-1867)	Book publisher, Mayor.	New Haven	Adelphi (63)
1846	Horace Goodwin 2d	(1787-1864)	Jeweler, Phalanx officer.	Hartford	St. Johns (4)
1848	Avery C. Babcock	(1802-1861)	Clothier, tailor.	New Haven	Hiram (1)
1850	Benoni A. Shepherd	(1795-1854)	Grocer, butcher.	Hartford	St. Johns (4)

1851	William E. Sanford	(1814-1895)	Merchant, business man.	New Haven	Hiram (1)
1853	David Clark	(1806-1889)	Wholesaler, philanthropist.	Hartford	St. Johns (4)
1855	Theodore Spencer	(1804-1860)	Merchant, tailor.	Hartford	St. Johns (4)
1856	William L. Brewer	(1813-1886)	Lawyer, Mayor.	Norwich	Somerset (34)
1858	George F. Daskam	(1818-1877)	Wholesale grocer.	Norwalk	St. Johns (6)
1859	John C. Blackman	(1807-1872)	Jeweler, local official.	Bridgeport	St. Johns (3)
1860	Howard B. Ensign	(1826-1891)	Steamship line owner.	New Haven	Hiram (1)
1862	Alvan P. Hyde	(1825-1894)	Lawyer, legislator.	Tolland	Uriel (24)
1864	David E. Bostwick	(1821-1872)	Country doctor.	Litchfield	St. Pauls (11)
1865	Eli S. Quintard	(1820-1903)	R. R. supt., merchant	New Haven	Wooster (79)
1867	William Storer	(1798-1872)	Printer, newspaperman.	West Hartford	Wylls (99)
1869	Amos E. Cobb	(1813-1890)	Manufacturer.	Norwich	Somerset (34)
1870	Asa Smith	(1829-1907)	Manufacturer.	Norwalk	St. Johns (6)
1871	James L. Gould	(1830-1909)	Lawyer, newspaperman.	Bridgeport	St. Johns (3)
1872	Luke A. Lockwood	(1833-1905)	Lawyer, philanthropist.	Greenwich	Acacia (85)
1874	William Wallace Lee	(1828-1903)	Machinist, historian.	Meriden	Meridian (77)
1876	Edward B. Rowe	(1834-1896)	Business man, shipper.	New London	Brainard (102)
1878	Dwight Phelps	(1834-1899)	Pharmacist.	Winsted	St. Andrews (64)
1879	Israel M. Bullock	(1844-1879)	Lawyer.	Bridgeport	Corinthian (104)
1880	John H. Barlow	(1832-1908)	Bookkeeper, Grand Secretary.	Derby	King Hiram (12)
1881	James McCormick	(1831-1917)	Cigar manufacturer.	Windsor	Washington (70)
1883	Fred H. Waldron	(1840-1910)	Carpenter, public official.	New Haven	Wooster (79)
1884	Dwight Waugh	(1831-1908)	Manufacturer.	Stamford	Union (5)
1886	Henry H. Green	(1840-1909)	Bookkeeper, business man.	Brooklyn	Moriah (15)
1888	John W. Mix	(1850-1902)	Hardware manufacturer.	Yalesville	Temple (16)
1889	John H. Swartwout	(1849-1925)	Business man, Postmaster.	Stamford	Union (5)
1890	Clark Buckingham	(1831-1900)	Factory mgr., 1st Home supt.	New Haven	Trumbull (22)



1891	Hugh Stirling	(1848-1931)	Manufacturer, Mayor.	Bridgeport	St. Johns (3)
1893	Samuel Bassett	(1841-1911)	Railroader, Postmaster, Mayor	New Britain	Centennial (118)
1894	Henry O. Warner	(1834-1909)	Tobacco farmer and shipper.	New Milford	St. Peters (21)
1896	James H. Welsh	(1831-1899)	Hat manufacturer.	Danbury	Union (40)
1897	George A. Kies	(1854-1936)	Musician, Grand Secretary.	Norwich	St. James (23)
1898	Frank W. Havens	(1845-1913)	Insurance man.	Hartford	Manchester (73)
1899	George G. McNall	(1847-1929)	Lawyer, local official.	Greenwich	Acacia (85)
1900	John O. Rowland	(1844-1942)	Oysterman, Home supt.	New Haven	Adelphi (63)
1901	Frederick S. Stevens	(1848-1906)	Wholesale and retail drugs.	Bridgeport	Corinthian (104)
1902	Arthur C. Wheeler	(1856-1941)	Hat manufacturer, Mayor.	Norwalk	St. Johns (6)
1903	Leon M. Woodford	(1852-1913)	Rubber manufacturer.	Naugatuck	Shepherd (78)
1904	George E. Parsons	(1863-1928)	Lawyer, clerk of courts.	Norwich	St. James (23)
1905	Asa P. Fitch	(1848-1916)	Railroader, insurance.	Hartford	Hartford (88)
1906	Benjamin F. Turner	(1860-1913)	Wholesale grocer.	Middletown	St. Johns (2)
1907	Andrew J. Hallock	(1861-1933)	Grocer, Home supt.	Bethel	Eureka (83)
1908	Edward E. Fuller	(1853-1932)	Insurance executive.	Rockville	Fayette (69)
1909	Weston G. Granniss	(1855-1940)	General merchandise.	Litchfield	St. Pauls (11)
1910	Fred A. Verplanck	(1860-1957)	Educator.	Manchester	Manchester (73)
1911	Randolph B. Chapman	(1848-1919)	Transportation agent.	Waterbury	Harmony (42)
1912	Justin Holden	(1852-1928)	Grocer and meat handler.	Norwich	Somerset (34)
1913	Wilbur S. Comstock	(1849-1912)	Insurance, banker.	East Haddam	Columbia (26)
1914	Edgar H. Parkman	(1861-1953)	Educator.	Thompsonville	Doric (94)
1915	Clarence R. Austin	(1857-1933)	Business man.	Danbury	Union (40)
1916	Thomas McKenzie	(1867-1929)	Utilities engineer.	Pawcatuck	Pawcatuck (90)
1917	Leonard J. Nickerson	(1857-1937)	Lawyer, Postmaster, judge.	West Cornwall	Blazing Star (74)
1918	William F. English	(1863-1933)	Clergyman, missionary.	Broad Brook	Oriental (111)
1919	Wallace S. Moyle	(1867-1920)	Lawyer, humanitarian.	New Haven	Hiram (1)

1920	Charles C. Perkins	(1864-1948)	Clothier, tailor.	New London	Union (31)
1921	Charles W. Cramer	(1877-1961)	Lawyer, tax expert, judge.	Portland	Warren (51)
1922	Frank L. Wilder	(1878- )	Lawyer, legislator.	Bridgeport	Corinthian (104)
1923	Arthur M. Brown	(1877-1947)	Lawyer, legislator.	Jewett City	Mt. Vernon (75)
1924	Winthrop Buck	(1878-1947)	Educator, Grand Secretary.	Hartford	Hartford (88)
1925	Walter T. Arnold	(1874-1937)	Architect, contractor.	Meriden	Center (97)
1926	Arthur N. Nash	(1872-1939)	Tobacconist, news dealer.	Pawcatuck	Pawcatuck (90)
1927	Theodore Foster	(1873-1937)	Dentist, local historian.	Chester	Solar (131)
1928	Robert S. Walker	(1876-1950)	Banker, lawyer.	Waterbury	Harmony (42)
1929	George R. Sturges	(1883- )	Lawyer.	Woodbury	King Solomons (7)
1930	Elbert L. Darbie	(1882-1946)	Lawyer.	Brooklyn	Moriah (15)
1931	Howard A. Middleton	(1869-1956)	Farmer, legislator.	Broad Brook	Ionic (111)
1932	Sherwood H. Raymond	(1887-1933)	Hardware, company exec.	New Britain	Centennial (118)
1933	Samuel A. Moyle	(1876- )	Insurance.	New Haven	Hiram (1)
1934	James E. Brinkerhoff	(1883-1958)	Lawyer, judge.	Stamford	Union (5)
1935	Ernest L. Prann	(1872-1958)	Newspaper publisher.	Deep River	Trinity (43)
1936	Arthur F. Lewis	(1872-1945)	Clergyman.	Naugatuck	Shepherd (78)
1937	Anders Jacobsen	(1874-1947)	Grocer, Postmaster, insurance.	Stafford Springs	Ionic (110)
1938	Morris B. Payne	(1885-1961)	Architect and engineer.	New London	Union (31)
1939	Thomas H. Desmond	(1884-1950)	Landscape architect.	Simsbury	St. Marks (36)
1940	William E. Hanmer	(1879- )	Wholesale fuel dealer.	Hartford	St. Johns (4)
1941	Walter W. Pickett	(1885-1961)	Lawyer, Superior Court judge.	New Preston	Wooster (79)
1942	Anson F. Keeler	(1887-1943)	Business man, Mayor.	Norwalk	St. Johns (6)
1943	Carleton W. Tyler	(1885-1962)	Country storekeeper.	Southbury	King Solomons (7)
1944	Ansel A. Packard	(1894-1957)	Utilities executive.	Portland	Warren (51)
1946	Henry K. Plumb	(1888- )	Industrialist.	Branford	King Hiram (12)
1946	Earle K. Haling	(1896- )	Banker, Grand Secretary.	Willimantic	Eastern Star (44)



1947	Charles J. Ramage	(1905- )	Utilities executive.	West Hartford	Oxoboxo (116)
1948	Louis S. Thomas	(1897- )	Banker.	Old Saybrook	Harmony (20)
1949	Phillip J. Jones	(1888- )	Dentist.	East Hartford	Orient (62)
1950	Frederick C. Hesselmeier	(1895- )	Lawyer.	Hamden	Day Spring (30)
1951	Clarence O. Lister	(1895- )	Lawyer.	Easton	America (132)
1952	Robert H. Nisbet	(1879-1961)	Professional artist.	Kent	St. Lukes (48)
1953	George S. Hull	(1885- )	Jeweler.	Clinton	Jephtha (95)
1954	Thom W. Corby	(1903-1961)	Public relations, Home Admin.	Waterbury	Harmony (42)
1955	John H. Smith	(1889- )	Highway engineer.	Phoenixville	Putnam (46)
1956	J. Hull Manwaring	(1895- )	Tax expert, local official.	Niantic	Bay View (120)
1957	Conrad Hahn	(1906- )	Educator, editor M. S. A.	Washington, D. C.	Apollo (59)
1958	Albert H. Ruwet	(1899- )	Businessman, Home official.	Wallingford	Olive Branch (84)
1959	Gordon F. Christie	(1907- )	Banker.	Fairfield	Washington (19)
1960	Russell H. Milnes	(1911- )	Clergyman.	Bethel	Housatonic (61)
1961	Paul D. Collier	(1899- )	Educator.	Simsbury	St. Marks (36)
1962	Ernest R. Dayton	(1892- )	Industrialist, C. P. A.	Middletown	St. Johns (2)
1963	Frank E. Linsley	(1901- )	Utilities engineer.	Thomaston	St. Andrews (64)

*Present place of residence shown for the living Past Grand Masters.*















